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343

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[103]

THEATRE ROYAL.
TO-NIGHT, AT 9.15.
FREDERIC SHIPMAN

Presents the

FANTASTICS

LAST NIGHT OF PRESENT PROGRAMME.

BERT WILES—THE RHYTHM XYLOPHONIST.

HILDA FELSTEAD, in "OH, THE WALTZ," "OLD CHAP,"
"I've been so busy knitting," and "New Versions of Old Rhymes."IVY ALDOUS and FRED KEELEY in the "PAPER DANCER,"
FRED KEELEY in his "INTERMEDIATE DANCER."

ELSIE BLACK—THE GIPSY FLAUTIST

and

RILLIE SEATON

the American Comedienne, whom London christened "THE GINGER GIRL."

Assisted by

RAY TRAYNOR.

Interval:

NELLIE BLACK and FERN FRENCH in

Song and Duets.

RAY TRAYNOR—"HE MAKES THE PIANO TALK."

LEONARD NELSON—"JUST A PLAIN COMEDIAN."

IVY ALDOUS in "WHISTLING JIM."

REDHEAD WILSON in an "ACROBATIC MONOLOGUE"

PROGRAMME NO. 2.

TO-MORROW AND SATURDAY.

TICKETS \$3, \$2 & \$1.

PLANS at MOUTRIE'S.

[1110]

ON SALE.

A TABLE OF THE

RATES OF EXCHANGE

AT HONGKONG

FOR

DEMAND DRAFTS ON BOMBAY
On the Day preceding the Departure of
the English Mails from the Year of the
Closing of the Indian Mails to the Free
Coinage of Silver.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TO-NIGHT

9.15 p.m.—Fantastics at the Theatre Royal.

Saturday, 13th Oct.—

Noon—Hongkong Jockey Club, Half.

Yearly Meeting.

Thursday, 18th Oct.—

"Our Day."

a.m.—Collection for Lady May's Rose Fund.

3 p.m.—Great Drawing of War Bonds at

the Murray Parade Ground.

9 p.m.—Fete at the Public Gardens.

Saturday, 20th Oct.—

11.30 a.m.—China Light and Power Co.,

Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.

Wednesday, 21st Oct.—

12.15 p.m.—Meeting of the Licensing Board

in the Council Chamber.

SIR ARTHUR YAPP.

THE NEW DIRECTOR OF FOOD ECONOMY.

Sir Arthur Yapp, the new director of Food Economy, is a man in the prime of life. Some twenty-five years ago his personality attracted the attention of a Y.M.C.A. District Secretary in the Midlands and he was persuaded to accept the post of General Secretary for Derby. He was successful and was soon appointed to the District Secretaryship of Lancashire, where his robust personality, marked gifts of leadership, and sunny disposition, made him hosts of friends and enabled him to turn one of the least prosperous Y.M.C.A. fields into one of the most efficient. About two years after he entered the work he was asked to assume charge of the Association in Bombay, but declined, and the second man on the list was appointed and has been in the East ever since. It is matter for congratulation that Sir Arthur did not accept the Eastern proposal, for there was no man in the English work, when the war broke out, who was fitted as he was to carry forward the vast operations that have been undertaken by the Red Triangle.

The work in Lancashire was so thoroughly well done that a call to London was the result. This was accepted; but before the exchange was made Sir W. J. Crossley, Bart., President of the Manchester Association, made a strong and attractive appeal to Mr. Yapp to go there and to take charge of the great new building which was then in course of erection. To Manchester he went, and there, did excellent service for several years. Then, through a sad cycle accident, the National Council was deprived of its efficient Secretary, Mr. Frank Howe, and the eyes of its leaders were at once turned to Manchester and Mr. Yapp was appointed to the vacancy. He made his influence felt at once, and was particularly keen on pushing forward the "Camp" work among the volunteers and regulars during the summer months.

Then came the fateful August 4th, 1914. Mr. Yapp was holidaying, but with the instincts of a true and statesman-like leader he hurried back to London, summoned the leaders of the movement to meet in Russell Square, laid before them a well-considered and bold scheme for war work, despatched them to the various strategic points in Britain, and within ten days of the declaration of war had hundreds of centres opened for the comfort and welfare of the troops. For many nights he slept at his post at Headquarters and gave himself spirit, soul and body to the prosecution of what he declared to be "the greatest opportunity that has ever come to the Y.M.C.A." It is needless to dwell upon the amazing success which has attended the enterprise, so promptly launched, so boldly carried out, so universally appreciated, and so handsomely supported.

It was no matter for surprise that His Majesty knighted the leader of it a few weeks ago, and it is scarcely a surprise to learn that his shining qualities have attracted the attention of the keen-sighted Prime Minister, and that Sir Arthur Yapp is now filling a responsible position in public service. How he will there carry his ideas of remains to be seen, and how he will bear the force of the new tests upon men in his position is a matter for conjecture only. This is certain, that if high moral character, strong faith in God, powerful and winsome personality, great devotion to duty, and exceptional executive ability, guarantee success in his present post, Sir Arthur Yapp will more than justify his selection.—E.E.

KAISER'S SPEECH.

"ENGLAND TO BE STRUCK DOWN."

An official message received recently in Copenhagen from Berlin says that in Flanders, the Kaiser, addressing deputations from all detachments which had a share in repulsing English attacks, said he felt impelled to express his thanks and his full recognition of the heroic gallantry shown by the troops from all parts of Germany in the hard fighting of last week. He referred to the violent battles in Flanders, and to "the marked contrast between the German view of the world and the Anglo-French view of the world," and continued:

It is in God's hands when His counsel will give us victory. He has taught our army a hard lesson, and now we are going to pass the examination. With the old German confidence in God we will show what we can do. The greater and mightier the problem, the more gladly will we grapple with it and solve it. We will fight and conquer until the enemy has had enough. In these struggles all the Germans have realised who is the instigator of this war and who the chief enemy—England. Everybody knows that England is our most spiteful adversary. She spreads her hatred of Germany over the whole world, steadily filling her Allies with hatred and eagerness to fight. Thus everybody at home knows what you know still better, that England is particularly the enemy to be struck down, however difficult it may be. Your relatives at home, who have made great sacrifices for, thank you through me. A difficult struggle is in front of us. When England, proud of her stubborn resistance, believes in her invincibility, you will show that you can do it still better, for the price of war is the German people's freedom to live, freedom at sea, and freedom at home. With God's help we will see the struggle through and be victorious.

In reply to the Kaiser's speech, the Commander-in-Chief of the troops expressed their thanks to the Emperor, emphasising their unshaken confidence in a victorious issue to the great fight, and concluded his speech with cheers for the "beloved Kaiser."

THE POET IN THE TRENCHES

[BY C. DAVID STELLING.]

When the war was yet young and before it had become for England the very main-spring of her national life, a young Cambridge poet-soldier wrote a little series of perfect sonnets. Later he died a soldier's death and was laid to rest on an Aegean island, leaving to his country the immortal heritage of his verse.

Rupert Brooke was far from being the only poet that the war has found for England, nor was he the only one whose life was rounded off into a perfect poem. But he was the first of a crusading band of visionaries who gave their lives, singeing, for their country and their cause. His country was England, the land of Freedom; his cause was the cause for which all the world's martyrs have laid down their lives—the cause of life, of Enlightenment, of Progress, of beauty—in a word, his conception of God. For that is the theme of all true poetry, though to few comes the opportunity to offer their lives as earnest of their sincerity. The half-poets, the others who are the outward guise of the real seers and seek to sing of truths dimly discerned in a cracked mirror, such men are not men of action. Nor are they poets. Your poet must needs be a true knight. Whether he adventure forth on Love quests or on a pilgrimage for Beauty, or to whatever emotional Odyssey his soul impels him, he is necessarily a doer and no mere dreamer. Nor is he one who goes forth consciously in search of material for his song. He sings because he must, because he has glimpsed a fragment of Truth or Beauty, and must reveal his discovery to the world through the medium of his art.

The very quality that makes the poet makes the man of action. The poet "creates" the Greeks perceived this when they called him a "maker" (poietes), and his creations are born of emotional experience wedded to vision. Thus he must be endowed not only with the mind that sees but also with the passion to explore the unexplored; so only can he lighten for us earth-dwellers the shadowy regions of Eternal Truth and Eternal Beauty, of which he has been vouchsafed a fleeting vision.

It was inevitable that the poet should be moved to take a man's part in the vast upheaval of the world. For all that he ever loved, for all that he ever possessed, he must perforce give on the sword to challenge the right of Brute Force to inflict its lecherous will upon a fair world. And so the poets too went forth to shed their blood, if need were, for the Beauty that was England.

There lies before the writer a little red volume on whose title-page are inscribed the words "Soldier Poets." The men whose names appear here became soldiers because they were poets and not in spite of it. They were the better poets for being soldiers. To claim that every one of them is worthy to rank among the immortals would be, of course, preposterous. But there are lines that are pure gold, wrought in the smelter of real experience by an artifice divinely touched. The underlying spirit of the verse is perhaps nowhere better expressed than in the exalted poem of Capt. Julian Grenfell, D.S.O., "Into Battle." These lines were written in Flanders in April, 1915, and at the end of May he was killed. No man ever penned for himself a nobler epitaph. He sang of the fighting man—

All the great company of Heaven
Hold him in their high comrade-ship,
The Dog-star and the Sisters Seven,
Orion's Belt and sworded hip.

The kestrel hovering by day,
And the little owl that call by night
Bid him be swift and keen as they.
As keen of ear, as swift of sight.

And when the burning moment breaks,
And all things else are out of mind,
And only Joy of Battle takes
Him by the throat, and makes him blind

Through joy and blindness he shall know,
Not caring much to know, that still
Not lead nor steel shall reach him, so
That it be not the Destined Will.

The thundering line of battle stands,
And in the air death moans and sings;
But Day shall clasp him with strong hands
And Night shall fold him in soft wings.

It is noteworthy that there is in the volume "little of the tinsel stuff of 'Patriotism,' no gaudy cheapjack stuff. Love of country expresses itself literally in a love of the English countryside, of the peaceful homelands scenes, as in that sonnet of Lieut. Geoffrey Howard's called "England," which concludes thus:—

And she is very small and very green,
And full of little lanes all dense with flowers
That wind along and lose themselves
Between
Mossed farms, and parks, and fields of
quiet sheep.

And in the hamlets where her stalwarts sleep
Low bells chime out from old elm-hidden
towers.

Such contrasts as these present themselves to the imaginations of many of the soldier poets, whose souls are satisfied with the savage ugliness of war, while that delight in the clash and crash of battle, so dear to the homekeeping war-poet, is conspicuously rare in the collection. If there is any one characteristic note that runs through the volume, it is this wistful love of the tender beauties of the homelands: George Midal, Sapper lance-corporal, sings of the Orchard land in Shakespeare's country where—

All the orchards shimmer white,
For an April day's delight;
We have risen in our fight
Left this land we love, to fight,
Fighting still, that these may stand,
Orchard land! Orchard land!

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

MERCANTILE MARINE PRISONERS.

A CONCESSION.

A statement has been made in Parliament on behalf of the Admiralty with regard to the treatment of mercantile officers when prisoners as follows:

During the earlier period of the war, down to the shooting of Captain Fryatt, officers of the merchant service were treated by the Germans as civilians. Towards the end of 1916 a change of policy took place—probably for military reasons—and a number of officers and men of the merchant service were transferred from Rülleben to a combatant camp at Brandenburg, on the ground that they were "of the standing of military prisoners." Since that time, so far as is known, all officers and men of the merchant service who are captured, whether by raiders or by submarines, are in the first place sent to combatant camps and in other ways regarded as combatants. The question of payment for maintenance has only lately been raised by Germany. In the case of officers of the Navy and the Army the allowances paid by the captor Government would be recoverable, and the practice is to charge them against the pay of the officers concerned. It appears to have been realised by Germany that this practice would not apply in the case of officers of the merchant service, who are not in receipt of pay as officers of the combatant force, and a demand was accordingly made upon the officers themselves for repayment of the sums advanced to them. Before arrangements could be made for the remission of money to meet these claims, it was recently reported that 25 officers had been removed from the combatant camp at Crefeld to the civilian camp at Rülleben. The Board of Trade are, however, taking such steps as are necessary to pay these officers allowances appropriate to their rank which will enable them to maintain themselves in whatever camp the German Government decide to place them. The Government fully recognise the rank of British merchant officers, and also their gallant conduct during the war. The Government could not, however, admit the German contention that they are combatants, as this would involve an admission of the right which is claimed by Germany to sink defensively-armed merchant vessels at sight.

When we've finished what He planned,
God will hear and understand,
God will give us back our land
Where the water-lily floats,
Silver throats! Silver throats!

Here we have the expression of the poet's belief that he is fighting for what he as a poet holds most dear, the heart and essence of his England. But England is far from being the only theme of her warrior bards. The sight of death and suffering has inspired them to graver and more solemn harmonies in other keys. There is the noble prayer of Lieut. W. N. Hodgson, who won the Military Cross before he fell in action during the battle of the Somme. He begins:—

By all the glories of the day,
And the cool evening's benison:
By the last sunset touch that lay
Upon the hills when day was done,
By beauty lavishly outpoured,
And blessings carelessly received,
By all the days that I have lived,
Make me a soldier, Lord.

The same boy—left Oxford to become a soldier—is moved by the sight of the horrors attending the bloody fight at Loos to this fine utterance of his faith, composed on the very morning of the battle on his way back to Rest Billets:—

We that have seen the strongest
Cry like a beaten child,
The sunset eyes unholly,
The cleanest hands defiled;
That have known the heart blood
Less than the lees of wine,
We that have seen men broken,
We know man is divine.

Private Smalley Sarson of the Canadian Contingent draws two vivid pictures of a village in the battle zone as it was in 1914, and as he saw it a year later, before the demons of war were let loose in the smiling countryside.

Wearied workers
Turned from the plow, home-trudging
from the fields
Smile at their thoughts of well-earned
peace and rest.

For in the village bustling pots and pans,
Sweet pleasant smells of peasant cookery,
Spell preparation for the evening meal.

But, a year later, all is grim ruin,
"even the sparrows that last year
in cheeky self-assurance chirped about have gone their way and left the desolate place," where

Standing stricken, the weary shrapelled
houses
Seem skeletons, grim and ghastly shapes,
Beckoning with scraggy fingers to the
sky
In silent plea for justice.

There is so much in this little volume one would fain quote that it is difficult to know where to stay one's pen. Through all the collection runs a love of beauty, a devotion to country, a faith in humanity, a new conception of soldierhood, that leave one marvelling at so spendour of men, whose spirit can so transcend all physical discomforts, sufferings and horrors that they pour forth their spontaneous songs, as though contemptuous of earthly circumstances. Yet these singers are but typical of the men of coarser clay whom they led. These few are articulate, but the spirit they express is the spirit of the British people in arms.

BARON VON KUHLMANN.

BILLS THAT WILL NOT BE PAID.

In the course of a discussion in the Reichstag Main Committee, Baron von Kuhlmann, the Foreign Minister, declared that all damage to German property and economic interests caused by Germany's enemies was being carefully recorded, and the invoices would be presented in due time to the hostile Governments.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Hefferich, in the course of a speech, said:—In 1917 Germany's world trade would presumably have reached the level of Great Britain's. It is precisely in this development that we find the real cause of Great Britain's intervention in the war. This war is the result of the tension created by the fact that Great Britain was constantly feeling the glaring and increasing disproportion between her superior naval and world power and Germany's increasing economic strength. One ought clearly to realise that Great Britain's object in this war is not economic oppression. To abandon oneself to any illusion in this respect would be fatal.

In another passage in his speech Dr. Hefferich repudiated as unjustified the reproach that he had ever made any promises respecting the efficacy of the U-boat war. He said:—Promising I leave to Great Britain. Mr. Lloyd George's statistics in his last speech are sheer humbug. If Mr. Lloyd George, contrary to his declarations in April, now draws a favourable picture of the situation, although it has certainly not become more favourable, this proves, first, that public feeling in Great Britain urgently needs to be comforted; and, second, that Mr. Lloyd George considers it necessary to play upon German public opinion. This impression is confirmed by the obvious consideration that Lloyd George's words can only be explained by some direct menace which operates in spite of the prospect of American aid in a tremendous dash on the Western front with an immense concentration of men and material. This menace is not so much on land or in the air, but on the water.

THE U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

The opinion, which is shared also by Mr. Lloyd George, that fine weather is particularly favourable to U-boat activity, is a mistaken one. A smooth sea and a full in the wind are very disagreeable to U-boats, especially in view of the enemy's defensive measures, particularly as regards aircraft. Some U-boat commanders are of opinion that U-boat warfare can be carried on with still better results when the weather is not too fine and the nights are longer. Of course, the navigating of ships under escort obstructs the work of U-boats, but it also involves considerable disadvantages for the enemy, owing to the unhandiness of such a flotilla, and the difficulty it has in quickly eluding the U-boat's attack. Of course, as sea traffic diminishes, the sinkings will probably gradually decrease. To-day the sinking of even one single ship is much more intensely felt by the Entente than in the beginning of the U-boat war. The statements of our naval staff respecting the tonnage resources of Great Britain may be regarded as exact. Mr. Lloyd George's statements, however, are artificial manipulation of figures. He mixes up net and gross losses, anxiously avoiding the giving of definite particulars as to the British total loss in tonnage. It is interesting to note his remark that all tonnage sunk from military requisitioned tonnage must be compensated from tonnage available for commercial purposes. His statements respecting British ship-building must be viewed with the utmost doubt. After quoting from reports of the French shipping department and from discussions in the French Chamber upon them, the Vice-Chancellor emphasised the fact that for the continuation of the U-boat war all the material and personnel required were ready in ample measure, so that in a military respect there could not be any doubt as to its being continued efficiently.

The Secretary for the Navy, Admiral von Capelle, stated that the losses suffered by the Allies during the unrestricted submarine war were actually 10 per cent. higher than at the beginning of February.

SOLDIER DOGS.

LIAISON WORK IN THE FRENCH ARMY.

Mr. H. Wood, the correspondent of the United Press of America with the French Armies, writes:—

Dogs have now become of such a general and important use throughout the entire French Army that it is no longer possible to supply the demand. Although numerous societies throughout France for the breeding of dogs send large and regular quotas to the armies, and although every dog pound in France contributes every cur that comes its way, thousands of dogs are still needed. The numerous duties which they discharge are such that all dogs, regardless of race, colour, or previous condition of servitude, can be utilized. Like everything else in the present struggle, the rôle of the dog has changed and developed to an extent never before dreamed of. One of the greatest problems set by the present war, and one that has not yet been successfully solved by any army, is that of keeping up communication between the men attacking and the artillery and commanding posts in the rear. Thousands of dogs are found that have an aptitude for this task. They are given a special training, even down to accustoming them to shell and barrage fire. Once they are given the message to carry to the rear they seldom, if ever, fail if alive to arrive with it. Hundreds of these dogs have and are still falling victims on the field of honour. But when it is considered that every dog thus killed saves the life of a soldier who would have otherwise been obliged to carry the message rearward it is readily seen that their deaths are not in vain.

THE HARBOUR SWIM.

J. C. FINCH AGAIN THE WINNER.

The harbour swim took place yesterday in ideal weather, and, as generally anticipated, was again won by J. C. Finch. The tide was at the flood when the race commenced and except that the water was rather "choppy" the conditions were as favourable as they could well be. Finch, however, was never pressed. He took the lead from the commencement and held it easily throughout and this probably accounts in a large measure for the time being slower than last year.

The course which is from Kowloon to the Praya Wall, between the V.R.C. and the bamboo wharf, is roughly between three quarters of a mile in length. In 1913 Finch swam it in the record time of 23min. 25secs. Yesterday his time was 25min. 30secs.

There were ten competitors yesterday—J. C. Finch, A. V. Barros, G. A. V. Hall, C. Chua, J. Adams, S. A. Marcell, R. E. Lee, Corporal White, R.E., Second-Corpl. Jackson, R.E., and Dr. Watson, R.G.A. All finished, the following being the order:

J. C. Finch	25min. 30secs.
C. Chua	27 " 22 "
R. E. Lee	28 " 53 "
A. V. Barros	29 " 21 "
Corpl. White	29 " 44 "
S. A. Marcell	
Dr. Watson	
2nd-Corpl. Jackson	
C. A. V. Hall	

Finch took a straight course, and, as stated, was never pressed. The first quarter of the swim was completed in eight minutes, half-way in 13 minutes and with still 500 yards to go 17min. 45secs. had been taken. These times, however, although given as official must only be regarded as estimates.

Mr. D. K. Blair officiated as starter. Messrs. Percy Smith and W. Logan were the judges and Messrs. A. E. Alves, A. McKirdy, and R. W. Wicheil the time-keepers. Mr. Wicheil was also responsible for the general arrangements and must be complimented up the admirable manner in which they were carried through.

There were four prizes—the first, \$100 in Straits Settlements 5 per cent. war loan, and the second, a cup, were presented by Mr. Clifford Edgcombe. The third prize for the general competitors was also a cup. A special prize of a silver cigarette case for the first Service man in was presented by Mr. W. Logan.

The prizes were handed to the successful competitors by Mr. Wicheil's sister, Mrs. Wilson. Before this interesting little ceremony took place, however, Mr. Logan gave a short history of the race. It was promoted, he said, in 1900 by the *China Mail* who presented prizes every year until 1913. Then came the war and the race was abandoned for two years. It was revived in 1916 and Mr. Finch, who had won it in 1913 had also won it during the last two years. To win the race was to win the blue ribbon of swimming in Hongkong. No man, unless he had tried to swim the harbour could speak of the hardships, the endurance and the training required. There was one other point he would like to mention. The amateur status in Hongkong during war time could not be regarded in the same light as it was in pre-war days. In the old days it would not have been possible for an amateur to compete with a soldier who received money prizes and retain his amateur status. These laws, however, as the Amateur Swimming Association would inform them, were practically non-existent during war time. Now, if amateurs competed with soldiers who received money prizes their status was not affected at all.

WATER POLO SHIELD.

Mr. Finch was also handed the Water Polo Shield which was won by his team in the 1916 competition. Seven teams entered—two representing the V.R.C., the one captained by Finch being successful, the two the Shropshires, and one each the R.G.A., the R.E.'s, and the Navy. There has been no competition in 1917.

When the prizes had been presented, Mr. Logan called for three cheers for Mrs. Wilson which were given lustily and the gathering dispersed.

HONGKONG CADETS.

ANNUAL SWIMMING SPORTS.

The prizes won in the swimming sports arranged for the Hongkong Cadets were distributed at the V.R.C. by Major Morgan shortly after the conclusion of the Harbour Race yesterday. The prize list was as follows:

Nine Lengths, Open Championship—1. Jack, 14secs.; 2. Lyon.
Plunge—1. Duncan; 2. Simmons.
High Dive—1. Hast; 2. Raiton and Martin.
Team Race—No. 4 Section—Taylor, Ramsay, Stradbury, Forsyth, Logan, Graham (2) Martin.

EX-SECRETARY MARINE ENGINEERS' GUILD CONVICTED.

SIX MONTHS' HARD LABOUR FOR EMBEZZLEMENT.

At the Magistracy, yesterday afternoon, the case was resumed before Mr. J. R. Wood in which Ivor Jones, formerly Secretary of the Hongkong Branch of the Marine Engineers' Guild, was charged with embezzling on the 27th March and 1st August two sums of \$100 and \$250, respectively, entrusted to him by Mr. Hugh Tulloch, engineer of s.s. *Luchow*, for the purpose of paying them into the Hongkong Savings Bank.

Mr. J. F. Reid, in the course of further evidence, produced a copy of the defendant's agreement with the Guild and also the letter of dismissal. He stated that the defendant's agreement expired on July last and after that defendant continued on a monthly arrangement only.

This evidence, his worship explained, was to show whether defendant had any reasonable expectation of being able to refund the money.

Another witness deposed that he took some shorthand notes of Mr. Stokes' case at the Marine Court by instructions of the defendant. When the work was done he sent in his bill for \$230. Defendant disputed the account, and it remained unpaid until Mr. Reid effected a compromise by paying witness \$100.

Mr. R. D. Barlow, of the Hongkong Savings Bank, stated that he was quite sure defendant did not pay \$350 into the bank in Mr. Tulloch's account.

Inspector Sim gave evidence as to defendant's arrest. Defendant said he had nothing to say. No witnesses to call.

His worship then sentenced the defendant to six months' hard labour on the first charge and six months' hard labour on the second charge, both sentences to run concurrently.

SPORT.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

R.G.A. 7, N.V. 0.

These teams met at the Happy Valley yesterday, on the Navy Ground in a friendly match. The sailors were not at full strength, and, in consequence, lost rather heavily. From the kick-off the Navy soon got going and within a few minutes, Attwood was called upon to save a not very difficult shot. The gunners then took the ball to the other end, and Halls scored. Green followed with two more before half time, one of them being beautifully headed past Crocker into the Navy goal, from a good pass by Watkinson. At half time the score was three goals to nil.

In the second half the Artillerymen still had things pretty well their own way and apart from a few brief visits to the R.G.A. goal which were always beaten off before Attwood was called upon, the play was all in the Navy half of the field. Green, Halls and Gretton each added goals for the leading team, the game finishing with the R.G.A. winners by seven goals to nil.

HONGKONG CRICKET LEAGUE.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB v. NAVY.

The following will represent the Club against the Navy on the Club ground next Saturday, at 2.15 p.m.—T. E. Pearce (Capt.), D. E. Donnelly, Capt. E. H. Gray, M. M. Maas, L. D. McNeill, Col. R. H. Morgan, Lieut. Murray, H. E. Muriel, F. Sutton, F. Syme Thomson, and H. H. Taylor.

ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP "SEIYO-MARU."

ALLEGED GERMAN PLOT NIPPED IN THE BUD.

The San Francisco correspondent of the *Tokyo Nichi Nichi*, reporting under date of September 24th, says that the T.K.K. South American liner *Seiyo Maru* had a narrow escape from a dastardly attempt by a German spy before her departure from Chile. From the passengers of the liner, the correspondent learns that when she was about to sail from the Chilean port, a German spy named Grobmann boarded the steamer and attempted to blow her up, but was arrested before he could carry out his plan. It was found that he carried five bombs, which he had laid in different places on board the steamer.

The *Seiyo Maru* is a cargo-boat of the T.K.K. South American line, and the officials of the company are inclined to disbelieve the news.—*Japan Times*.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

AN UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE.

Charged with entering a house with intent to commit a felony, a Chinese told Mr. Dyer Ball that he made a mistake, thinking the place was an opium den.

Inspector Brazil stated the defendant had four convictions against him. He claimed to be a native of Hongkong and, as such, could not be deported.

Sentence of six months' hard labour was passed.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION.

Two Chinese coxswains of a night-boat were charged before Mr. Dyer Ball with the unlawful possession of 40lbs. of linseed oil, valued at \$40, reasonably suspected of being stolen.

Defendants pleaded that the oil had been given them to sell.

The first defendant was sentenced to 14 days' hard labour and the second defendant to 10 days' hard labour.

WOMAN AND OPIUM.

A Chinese woman was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood with the unlawful possession of 50 taels of prepared opium other than Government opium.

The defendant was arrested at the Canton Steamboats' Wharf at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday as she was going on board the s.s. *Hongshen*, and the opium was found concealed on her person.

On the application of Mr. Gardiner, who defended, the case was adjourned until Friday morning, bail being fixed at \$2,000.

A CORRECTIVE FOR TAKING MEDICINE.

A cargo coolie working on board the s.s. *Chipping* was charged with stealing 5lbs. of Chinese medicine, valued at \$7, the property of the Indo-China Navigation Co.

Inspector Gordon stated that at noon the previous day, while the other coolies went for their meals, defendant remained behind, went into the ship's hold, broke open a case, and stole the medicine. A ship's watchman saw the deed and tried to arrest defendant, but failed. Defendant was subsequently caught by the steward of the ship and the medicine was found in a bag tied round his waist.

Defendant was sentenced to 28 days.

A coolie was charged with the unlawful possession of a pearl hair ornament valued at \$100.

In reply to Mr. Dyer Ball, defendant stated that a friend of his picked up the ornament in front of the Old Supreme Court and asked defendant to ascertain its value, for which purpose they went to a pawnshop. Defendant went inside to inquire the value of the article while his friend remained outside. The pawnbroker, however, wanted to see the owner of the ornament, and defendant went outside to find him, but he was no longer there.

The case was adjourned for a week to give the police an opportunity of finding the owner of the ornament.

HEAVY FINE FOR BRIBERY.

DIRECTOR'S GIFTS TO ARMY CLOTHING OFFICIALS.

Appearing at the Old Bailey, Louis Prechner, 34, managing director of the Farrington Manufacturing Supply Company, Ltd., Fetter-lane, which had held contracts with the Royal Army Clothing Factory, Pimlico, since December, 1915, was fined \$500 for corruptly offering and making gifts to Mr. Wakeford, an assistant to the chief inspection officer at the depot.

Mr. Travers Humphreys, prosecuting, said prisoner was in a state of jubilation because his firm had obtained a contract for the supply of 65,000 jackets, and under the impression that Mr. Wakeford—who, as a matter of fact, had not the slightest influence either in the acceptance or rejection of contracts—had been instrumental in bringing this about, handed him at lunch \$20 for friendship, said he was willing to make further payments, and paid him another \$25. Wakeford reported the matter.

"We are now in the throes of the greatest war that has ever been known," said Mr. Justice Lawrence, "and this country will be bled white if practices of this sort are to be allowed to prevail. I take a lenient view of your case because you do not appear to have been guilty of the infamous conduct of passing off inferior goods, but I must make the public realise that there can be no tampering with the servants of the Crown."

JAPAN REDEEMS LOANS.

The *Official Gazette* announces that the Government has redeemed ¥5,000,000 of the Four-and-a-half per cent. Sterling Loan. The total amount redeemed, this year is ¥14,150,000.

THE "FANTASTICS."

SUCCESSFUL OPENING NIGHT.

The general success which attended the opening performance of the "Fantastics" at the Theatre Royal last evening is a happy augury for the future productions of the delightful band of entertainers in Hongkong. Unlike other companies, the "Fantastics" came to the Colony completely unknown; they had reputations to make, and, judging by the excellence of the programme given last evening they will have obtained a high one before their first season closes. Mr. Shipman has got together a company of which he may well feel proud and good "houses" should be the order of the day while they are here.

Miss Billie Seaton, the leading lady, and really the "star turn," amused and entertained everyone. She is full of life and vivacious charm, and simply took the house by storm with "They always pick on me." The "dance-offerings" of Miss Ivy Aldous were exceedingly acceptable, and she, in company with Mr. Fred Keeley, performed several remarkable terpsichorean feats. Mr. Fred Keeley also achieved a remarkable success with his weird "Tribute Dance"; he was both amusing and distinctly clever. The flute playing of Miss Elsie Black was as enjoyable as any of the items, and that is saying a great deal. "Lion du Bal" was splendidly rendered. The violin solo items were supplied by Miss Nellie Black, and, here again, Mr. Shipman demonstrated his judgment in selecting an artist who knows how music should be produced. Miss Nellie Black obviously adores her violin, and the result is always an accomplished interpretation. Other items, all of them thoroughly in keeping with the excellence of the programme, were given by Miss Fern French, Miss Hilda Felstead and Mr. Bert Wiles. Mr. Ray Traynor, through an accomplished pianist preference, to make merry with the internal mechanism of his piano with some astonishing results. Mr. Leonard Nelson was to the fore with some up-to-date comedy songs, and Mr. Redhead Wilson entertained with remarkable comedy athletic novelties.

The programme was one of the most varied and one of the best that has been presented in Hongkong for some time.

EFFECT OF HIGH EXCHANGE ON SINO-JAPANESE TRADE.

As a result of the increase in the value of silver, the exchange rate for a silver-standard country naturally declines. At the beginning of this year the Japanese exchange with China stood at 60½ taels, but declined to 57 taels in June. The rate further fell to 54½ taels in August, and now not more than 43 taels is quoted. The decline in the Japanese-Chinese exchange means an increase in the buying power of China, and a decline in that of Japan, in relation to (says the *Japan Chronicle*) by the following table giving Japan's exports to China and imports from China since the beginning of the year—

	Exports. (1,000).	Imports. (11,000).
January	17,643	9,983
February	20,434	9,529
March	23,032	7,601
April	29,996	7,174
May	28,527	9,647
June	23,538	11,050
July	22,856	9,875
August	23,652	8,246

It cannot, of course, be said that the increase in Japan's exports to China and the decrease in imports from that country are solely due to the increased value of silver; there are no less important factors such as the suspension of European supplies due to the war; but it is clear that the increase in the value of silver is one of the important causes of the above-mentioned change in the condition of trade between Japan and China.

Perhaps it will have been observed that the figures for June are thereafter given above are at variance with the statement that the increased value of silver has gone towards increasing Japan's exports to China and decreasing imports from that country. The seeming inconsistency is owing to an anomalous condition of the trade in a commodity which is the most important of the goods exported from Japan to China. That commodity is cotton yarn. It is hardly necessary to recall the extraordinary boom which prevailed on the cotton yarn market about two or three months ago. Quotations on the domestic market rose so high that the export trade in cotton yarn suffered a serious set-back, while considerable re-exports were obtained from China. The following table shows Japanese cotton yarn exported to China since the beginning of the year—

(Y1,000).		(Y1,000).	
January ...	6,185	May.....	7,071
February ..	6,544	June	4,033
March	8,469	July.....	5,243
April	6,784	August....	4,337

Now that the boom on the cotton yarn market has been displaced by a slump, it is expected that the cotton yarn trade will gradually resume its normal course.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

THE "PALL MALL" WHISKY.

11 YEARS OLD.

\$32 per case.

NAPIER JOHNSTONE'S WHISKY.

"OLD SQUARE"

UNVARIED FOR 150 YEARS.

\$30 per case.

WHITE HORSE CELLAR WHISKY.

Island of Islay and Glenlivet.

\$29 per case.

CLAN MACKENZIE WHISKY.

CLAN MACKENZIE WHISKY. EXTRA OLD SCOTCH WHISKY. WRIGHT & CO. LTD. 18

"PREMIER" WHISKY.

EXTRA OLD SCOTCH WHISKY. WRIGHT & CO. LTD. 18

WAR CHARITIES.

"OUR DAY"

THURSDAY, 18th OCT., 1917.

MORNING:

Collection for LADY MAY'S ROSE FUND. Government House envelopes addressed to LADY MAY.

AFTERNOON at 3 o'clock.

GREAT DRAWING OF WAR BONDS at the Murray Parade Ground.

St. John Ambulance Brigade competitions. Teas and Refreshments in English and Chinese style; and various attractions.

EVENING at 9 o'clock.

FETE at the Public Gardens. New OFFICIAL WAR FILMS shown for the first time in Hongkong; Illuminations and Music.

THE BANDS OF THE 25th MIDDLESEX REGIMENT, 18th INFANTRY, 74th PUNJABIS and POLICE RESERVE will play during the Afternoon and Evening.

Admission to Parade Ground, 50 Cents. Admission to Gardens, \$1; Seats, \$5 enclosure and \$1 enclosure.

Sailors and Soldiers in uniform (not including the Hongkong Defence Corps) admitted free; Children half-price for admission and seats. Tickets for admission and seats obtainable at MOUNTAIN, ROBINSON'S, ANDERSON'S and from Members of the WAR CHARITIES GENERAL COMMITTEE.

GRAND CHINESE THEATRICAL ENTERTAINMENT

From 5th till 12th October, at the Taiping Theatre.

Tickets for the War Bond Drawing are obtainable at all the Principal Banks.

[122]

Wm. Powell Ltd. TELEPHONE 346

FOR

"OUR DAY"

PATRIOTIC RIBBONS

National Colours of the Allies in Several Widths.

"HEATHER DAY"

TARTAN RIBBONS

in Great Variety.

[130]

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE.

I HAVE This Day Established myself as
PROPERTY BROKER AND COMMISSION
AGENT, also as Public Translator of Por-
tuguese, Spanish, English, French and Italian
languages (including legal documents).
Manuscript and transposing music
speciality.
A. M. C. DA SILVA,
170, Queen's Road East.
Hongkong, 10th October, 1917. [1138]

G. R.

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

THE INSTITUTE will RE-OPEN on
MONDAY, the 15th October.
Students should attend at QUEEN'S COLLEGE
at 8 P.M. on that date, for Enrolment.
Hongkong, 11th October, 1917. [1139]

WANTED.

AN EXPERIENCED IMPORT and
EXPORT MAN, capable of taking
charge of the department. Only those with
experience need apply.
Apply to—
"EXPORT,"
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[1140]

WANTED.

AN experienced and reliable CHINESE
SHIPPING CLERK. State previous
experience and salary required.
Apply—
"F. C."
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[1143]

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.
CHAMPIONSHIP 1917.

CONDITIONS:—Match Play.
First round to consist of
32 Players.
All Members with a Handi-
cap of 6 or under qualify
automatically.
The remaining places,
estimated at approxi-
mately 12, will be filled
by means of a qualifying
round of 36 holes (Medal
Play) open to Members
with Handicaps of 7 to
11 inclusive.

The Qualifying round will be played off on
SUNDAY, 21st October.
Championship, 1st and 2nd rounds, 28th Oct.
3rd and 4th, 29th Oct.
Final round (36 holes) 11th
All entries, MADE IN WRITING, must
reach the undersigned not later than MONDAY,
15th inst.
K. M. CUMMING,
Hon. Secretary. [1141]

JOINT SERVICE

OF THE

MOUNTAIN RAIL LINES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"RENERBANT"
having arrived from SAN FRANCISCO.
Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified
that all Goods are being landed at their
risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous
Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon
Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whose and/or
from the wharves delivery may be obtained.
No Claim will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods
remaining undelivered after the 17th inst., at
Nees, will be subject to rent.
All Claims against the Steamer must be pre-
sented to the Underwriter on or before the 20th
inst., or they will not be recognized.
All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to
be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on the 16th inst., at 10 A.M., by the
Company's surveyors, Messrs. Goddard &
Douglas.
No Fire Insurance has been effected.
Bills of Lading will be counter-signed by
JAYA-CHINA-JAPAN LINE,
Agents.
Hongkong, 10th October, 1917. [1142]

NOTICE.

I HAVE Established myself as MER-
CHANT, GENERAL EXPORTER and
IMPORTER and COMMISSION AGENT,
from 1st October, 1917, under the name and
style of JOE MORAES & Co.
JOE MORAES,
34, Queen's Road Central.
Hongkong, 1st October, 1917. [1117]

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE
CO., LTD.

THE CERTIFICATE for one Share No.
14011 in this Company standing in the
name of WILLIAM DE BASSER of Yokohama,
Japan, has been LOST, and if at the expira-
tion of one month from the date hereof the
above document be not forthcoming, another
Certificate for the said Share will be issued
by the Company and thereafter no other will
be acknowledged.

C. H. P. HAY,
per pro. General Manager.
Hongkong, 4th October, 1917. [1116]

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

THE CERTIFICATE No. 4309 for two
Shares Nos. 8771 and 17546 in this
Company standing in the name of Mrs. ANNA
JOSEFA CARNEIRO DE LECAROS (deceased), late
of Macao, has been LOST, and if at the expira-
tion of one month from the date hereof the
above document be not forthcoming, another
certificate for the said Shares will be
issued by the Company and thereafter no
other will be acknowledged.
C. H. P. HAY,
per pro. General Manager.
Hongkong, 5th October, 1917. [1118]

INTIMATIONS

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING of
Members will be held on SATURDAY,
the 13th October, 1917, at 12 o'clock NOON, at
the Offices of the Hongkong Jockey Club,
on the ground floor of the Hongkong Club
ANNEXE, Chater Road.
By Order,
T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.
Hongkong, 29th September, 1917. [1068]

THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER
COMPANY LIMITED.

THE SIXTEENTH ORDINARY
GENERAL MEETING of SHARE-
HOLDERS will be held at the Offices of
the Company, St. George's Building, No. 6,
Connaught Road, Victoria, on SATURDAY,
the 20th day of October, 1917, at 11.30 A.M.,
for the purpose of receiving a Statement of
Accounts and the Report of the General
Managers for the year ending the 31st July,
1917, and electing a Consulting Committee
and Auditors.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from 10th to 24th of October,
1917, both days inclusive.
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 5th October, 1917. [1130]

G. R.

NOTICE

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian
desiring to leave the Colony should
apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE
STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.
and 3 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.
Applicants will be required to produce
Passports or identification papers.
All persons with certain exceptions who
remain in the Colony for more than 7 days
are required to Register themselves under
the REGISTRATION or PERSONS
ORDINANCE 1917.
Forms of Registration giving the particu-
lars required may be obtained at the
G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.
The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine
not exceeding \$50. [108]

VEGETABLE AND
FLOWER SEEDS.

FRESH DROP of 1917 having
been just collected orders
solicited for Autumn or early
Spring sowing.

List will be mailed free on
application.

THE YOKOHAMA STEAMSHIP
Co., Ltd.,

P.O. Box 72,

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN.

[1108]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry, Four very desirable
SHOPS, situated in Lee House Street,
opposite the Grand Hotel, recently recon-
structed.
For rent and other particulars apply to—
The MANAGER,
Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.,
48, Connaught Road Central.
[100]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central.
OFFICE in King's Buildings.
HOUSES in Morston Terrace and
Wongshing Road.
HOUSES on Shamshing, Canton.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT AND AGENCY Co., Ltd.
[28]

TO LET.

A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Kowloon.

Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE
Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings [84]

WANTED.

THREE UNFURNISHED ROOMS
Flat or Bungalow, middle level or Peak
district. State full particulars.
Address—Box 100,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[1121]

TO BE SOLD.

"GLENSHIEL" and "GLENSHIEL"
BUNGALOW, 140 and 141, THE
PEAK.
Apply to—
Box 543,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[1096]

INTIMATION

WATSON'S

DHOBIE

ITCH

CURE

Copy of recent order received:

Dear Sirs,

I herewith request you to send
me 3 bottles of your DHOBIE
ITCH CURE, which I found to
be excellent when in Hongkong
a few weeks ago.

Signed—

W. R. D.

\$1.00 per bottle.

SOLD ONLY BY

A. S. WATSON &
CO., LTD.,

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

TELEPHONE 16

[12]

HONGKONG, 11th OCTOBER, 1917.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 11th OCTOBER, 1917.

LOOKING AHEAD.

The plea made by a contributor yester-
day on behalf of the future residents
in this Colony will, we believe, meet with
the sympathy of most of our readers.
Town-planning is a comparatively new
science, but, like many things which have
come within the sphere of practical
politics during the last fifty years, it
bids fair to engage an increasing amount
of attention. The improvements brought
about in Great Britain by a study of
problems connected with town-planning
have been remarkable. Legislation has
been passed which will ensure that the
new suburbs of our great cities shall not
in future be a conglomeration of strag-
gling, narrow and ugly streets. Those
who have visited London of recent years
cannot fail to appreciate what the
Council has done in opening up Aldwych
and other districts that were formerly
congested. The most popular scheme for
a war memorial in the capital of the
Empire to-day is one that will be both
useful and ornamental. In a vague and
nebulous fashion, perhaps, the creators of
Trafalgar Square many years ago con-
ceived the idea of attempting something
that would provide the metropolis with
another open space while reminding post-
erity of its debt to the dead. On a smaller
scale, but still with an eye to the future,
our local Statue Square was created.

It is inevitable that whenever we begin
to discuss any form of local improvement
in Hongkong we are at once confronted
with the disadvantages of the present
system of government. Our contributor
gives to the Public Works Department
praise which some will probably regard
as excessive. No doubt that much-
criticised body of public servants has
accomplished great things in the Colony.
We venture to affirm, however, that it
has done nothing that would not have
been done equally well had the Director

been responsible to a popularly-elected
representative Council. We can imagine
many things left undone which might
have been done under such conditions, and
we believe that many things have been
done which no popularly-elected Council
would have tolerated. So far as we can
understand, any public improvements
which are suggested are at the mercy of
two or three officials. The whim of one
person in authority may thus be of
greater weight than the wishes of the
remainder of the community. That
system is bad, however perfect may be
the human nature which administers it,
and we have repeatedly urged that it
should be ended or amended. We recog-
nise to the fullest extent that Hongkong
is a unit of Empire and that in all
matters of Imperial policy it must re-
main more or less under the direction of
Downing Street, but it is absurd to con-
tend that only Downing Street or its
nominees is competent to decide whether
a road in Hongkong shall be twenty-
five or thirty feet wide. The officials in
Downing Street, or any other people in
Great Britain for that matter, are not
immediately interested in the town-plann-
ing of Hongkong, but the local residents
are very intimately concerned in such
domestic details, though they have no
control over them. We have not much
hope of any efforts at town-planning
being undertaken so long as the present
system of government remains. While,
on the one hand, there is every induc-
ement to a Government official to refrain
from worrying his superiors with his
ideas, there is, on the other hand, a
stimulus to an accredited public repre-
sentative in the knowledge that he must
render an account of his stewardship to
his constituents. We none of us like busi-
bodies who increase our day's work, but
we are all more or less sensitive to
public opinion unless we can seek shelter
from it under the broad wings of the
Government. Though it has recently
been demonstrated, in connection with
the Military Service Bill, that public
opinion has some effect, even in a Crown
Colony, it is, nevertheless, very difficult
under existing conditions for the public
to learn anything about many projects
until they are carried into effect. That
is particularly the case with the activities
of the Public Works Department. New
proposals for widening streets, im-
proving drainage, and erecting a Council is bound to
arouse interest in such matters. A
Government official cannot very well
"boom" his own department, or explain
to the public the advantages to be obtain-
ed by adopting a progressive policy, and
in that respect he is at a great disadvan-
tage compared with the servant of an
elected Council, who always finds
amongst the members some who are parti-
cularly interested in, let us say, the exten-
sion of open spaces or the widening of
narrow streets.

There is much of which we may
feel legitimately proud in this Colony.
It is when we begin to imagine
how Kowloon and Victoria might
look and view them as they are,
that we realise that, in the development
of this Colony, there has been a great deal
of "muddling through." A comparison
with Tsingtau has often been made, and,
although that port has the advantage of
being a more recent creation than Hong-
kong, it is none the less true that the
Germans planned ahead. Berlin has some
atrocious eyesores, but its main thorough-
fare is a model for any city. It
may be argued that in this time of
sword and flame it is wrong to think about
improving the Colony. Yet each week new
plans are passed and new schemes are in
progress that will remain for years, and
there is consequently no reason why some
definite efforts should not be made to
plan out, scientifically, the future devel-
opment of the entire Colony.

Owing to an insufficient number of
playing members being present, yesterday
evening, the Hongkong Football Club
meeting was postponed.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice
Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals ac-
knowledges with thanks a donation of \$25
to the Funds of the Hospitals from S. J.
David & Co.

Major W. G. Lyddon, C.M.G., R.G.A.,
who was formerly an officer of the
A. C. D. in Hongkong, has been men-
tioned in the Gazette for distinguished
services rendered in connection with the
war.

The Technical Institute re-opens on
Monday, October 15th.

Owing to the important work being
done on the organ at St. John's Cathedral,
the morning week-day service will be held
at 12.15, instead of at 10.15, until the
work is completed.

Colonel C. C. Wrigley, C.B., A.C.D.,
a former Chief Ordnance Officer of
Hongkong, is mentioned in despatches
for distinguished services rendered in
connection with the war.

The majority of the Chinese business
houses in the Colony, displayed the five
barred flag, and in some cases, also the
Union Jack, on the occasion of the
sixth anniversary of the Chinese Republic,
yesterday.

The Indian murder trial, which should
have been continued at the Criminal
Sessions before the Chief Justice yester-
day, will be commenced *de novo* before
the Puisne Judge on Monday next. Sir
William Rees-Davies is still too unwell to
attend Court. Complications have
developed in what, at first, was considered
to be a slight chill, and Sir William's
medical adviser has ordered complete rest
from official duties.

At the quarterly meeting of the Hong-
kong Missionary Association, held on
October 8th, the following resolution was
passed:—"This meeting of the Hong-
kong Missionary Association desires to
record its protest against the introduction
of the Lottery System in connection with
the effort to raise money for the British
Red Cross Society. It feels that the
system is morally indefensible as being
indistinguishable from any other form of
gambling."

Church Notes comments on the question
of raising money for the Red Cross
Society as follows:—"We much regret that
a public lottery has been chosen as one
of the methods for obtaining money for
the funds of the Red Cross Society.
Whilst gambling is not one of the greater
sins, yet it has been generally regarded
as having a pernicious effect, and is
plainly opposed to Christian precepts.
While it has been tolerated in various
forms, it seems a pity, especially in
China, that it should be practised so
openly and publicly sanctioned."

The Hongkong Golf Club will
publish in another column the conditions
of this year's championship competition.
The first round will consist of 32 players.
All members with a handicap of six or
under qualify automatically. The re-
maining places, estimated at approxima-
tely 12, will be filled by means of a qual-
ifying round of 36 holes open to members
with a handicap of seven to eleven
inclusive. The qualifying round will be
played off on Sunday, October 21st. The
first and second rounds on October 28th,
the third and fourth rounds on Novem-
ber 4th, and the final round on November
11th. All entries must be made in writing
to the Secretary not later than Monday
next.

News has been received in the Colony
that Lieut. Evers, formerly of Messrs.
A. S. Watson & Co., has been awarded
the Military Cross for conspicuous gal-
lantry in the field. Mr. Evers was among
the first to leave Hongkong for active
service and joined the 2nd Middlesex as
a private. He was subsequently given a
commission and drafted to the 22nd Mid-
dlesex Regiment. The action which
brought him the Military Cross is one
which showed that he possesses initiative
and courage in a high degree, for he
organized and led a raiding party
against the Germans. The party was cut
off and Lieut. Evers and five men found
themselves attacked in the rear by fifty
of the enemy. Fortunately they had a
Lewis gun with them, and this was used
with such good effect that they all
managed to reach their own lines in
safety. Lieut. Evers has been wounded
several times, and was offered a position
as musketry instructor in England which
he refused on the ground that he went
home to fight and considers that his place
is in France. Naturally the staff of
Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co. are very
proud of his record, and a letter of hearty
congratulation is being sent to him signed
by all members of the firm.

JAPAN'S EXPENDITURE ON THE
NAVY.

It is reported that the Japanese Govern-
ment will spend about ¥23,000,000 next
year on the proposed battleship fleet.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative
Council will be held to-day at 2.30 p.m.
The "Orders of the Day" are as fol-
lows:—

First reading of a Bill intitled "An
Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding
eight million, three hundred and sixty-
eight thousand, nine hundred and ten
dollars to the Public Service of the year
1918."

Second reading of the Bill intitled,
"An Ordinance to provide for the licens-
ing and control of places where persons
are lodged for hire."

Second reading of the Bill intitled,
"An Ordinance to amend the Liquors Con-
solidation Ordinance, 1911."

Second reading of the Bill intitled,
"An Ordinance to consolidate and amend
the law relating to the deportation of
undesirable persons."

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI-
SAN PO"]

CANTON, October 10th.

GENERAL LUNG.

General Lung Chai-kwong has sent a
representative to ask General Luk Wing-
ting's permission to attack Fukien.
Luk however, has not yet given permis-
sion.

NORTHERN SQUADRON.

The Tachun Chai Ping-kwan has wired
to the Defence Commissioner of Swatow,
Mek King-ye, requesting him to come
at once to Canton to report the movement
of the Northern Squadron. The Tachun
will give the Commissioner instructions
from General Luk Wing-ting for dealing
with the squadron.

WAR BONDS FOR YUNNAN.

The Yunnan Tachun Tong Kai-yew has
sent a delegate to Canton to ask the
Generalissimo for war bonds to the
amount of \$200,000.

IMPORTANT MILITARY CONFERENCE.

The Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen has
received a report from an important
authority in Peking stating that the
Central Government has decided to use
force to settle the disputes with the
South-West, and will appoint Gen-
eral Lung Chai-kwong as Inspector
of the two Kwongs, in place of General
Luk Wing-ting. The Government will
also appoint some others as Tachuns and
Civil Governors for those two provinces,
when the Northern troops have quit-
ted the South West. Dr. Sun, after receiving
this report, had a special conference with
all the naval and military officers.

We understand that it was decided to
oppose the Northern troops, and to re-
quest General Luk Wing-ting to send
re-inforcements at once to meet the Cen-
tral Government army in Hunan so that
it may not gain entrance to the South
west.

"OUR DAY"

LADY MAY ROSE FUND.

Subscriptions already acknow-
ledged \$3,455
Victoria Recreation Club 50
Messrs. Anderson, Meyer &
Co., Ltd. 50
Mr. Leo d'Almeida e Castro 50
Anonymous 50
Mrs. A. E. Hodgins 15
Mrs. Hooper 10
Subscriptions through Hon.
Mr. Lau Chu Pak:—
Colonel Hau Pui Lie 250
Mr. Leung Shui Yik 50
Mr. Leung Kwei Tin 50
Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak 25
Mr. Ho Fook 25
Mr. Chan Kai Ming 25
Mr. Chan Shan Shun 25
Mr. Chau Tung Shang 20
Mr. Li Po Kwei 10
Mr. Lo Cheung Shui 10
Mr. Chai Yue Ting 10
Mr. Ip Sau Chi 10
Mr. Yue Yuk Chi 10
Mr. Choi Cheong 10
380
\$4,040

GOOD BRITISH TRADE RETURNS.

The trade returns of the United King-
dom for July show substantial increases,
both as regards imports and exports, as
compared with the preceding month and
with the same month of last year. Exact
comparisons, however, are impossible,
owing to the fact that for the first time
the accounts include articles imported
and exported in public as well as in private
ownership, except exports for the use
of His Majesty's forces in any theatre of
war. But after making allowances for this
change in the returns, the figures
must be regarded as quite satisfactory.
Imports amounted to \$20,182,439, as
compared with \$19,732,443 in July, 1916,
while the exports of British products
were valued at \$49,839,635, as against
\$48,323,057 last year. Re-exports amount-
ed to \$4,568,484, a decrease of \$3,306,437.

THE WAR.

ANOTHER BIG OFFENSIVE. BRITISH AND FRENCH SUCCESSES. ARMY AND NAVY PAY. THE PREMIER'S VIEWS. SPEECHES IN THE REICHSTAG.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

A NEW ATTACK.

BRITISH AND FRENCH
CO-OPERATE.

LONDON, October 10th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: The continuous and heavy rain yesterday afternoon and evening made the ground sodden and very difficult for the passage of the troops.

Notwithstanding the stormy weather and waterlogged ground, we launched an attack, in conjunction with the French, with very successful results.

The attack extended from the south-eastward of Broodseinde to Saint Jan, back which is a mile to the north-eastward of Bixchoote.

The Australians, on the extreme right, advanced over the crest of the ridge to the eastward and north-eastward of Broodseinde and secured all their objectives.

ALL OBJECTIVES GAINED.

The third line Territorial Division on the right centre, comprising of the Manchester, East Lancashire, and Lancashire Fusilier regiments, advanced a mile to the northwards along the ridge to Paschendale, capturing all their objectives under the most trying and most difficult circumstances, and with great determination and gallantry.

A considerable advance was made in the centre, between the main ridge and Poelcapelle, and includes the capture of many fortified farms and conerated redoubts.

We completed, on the left centre, the capture of Poelcapelle and the English, Welsh and Irish regiments and the Guards, on the extreme left of the British attack have taken all their objectives and have gained the outskirts of the forest at Houthulst, two miles to the north-north-west of Poelcapelle.

The French, on our left flank, crossed the Broenbeck, river, which is in flood, and also gained the outskirts of the forest at Houthulst, capturing all their objectives, including several hamlets and many fortified localities.

Upwards of 1,000 prisoners have already been counted.

Much aerial reconnaissance, and some artillery work was carried out on Monday.

Two enemy machines were driven down and ground targets were machine-gunned. Two of our machines are missing.

ANOTHER FINE DAY FOR THE ALLIES.

Reuters' Correspondent at Headquarters states:—At dawn, the British and Australians again attacked along the Flanders ridges and pushed back the enemy to a depth, in some places, of about two thirds of a mile.

The battle extended more to the northward than in the three previous operations, and since September 30th, the French have been taking up the fight on the left.

The weather is about as bad as possible. Yesterday evening it was blowing a gale and raining in torrents, but the clouds broke at midnight and the stars shone. In the small-hours it was quite clear, enabling the troops to be brought into their starting positions under more favourable conditions, but the ground was very bad going and extremely difficult and it is hardly likely that the Germans anticipated that we should endeavour to advance under such conditions.

The troops found the huns holding the front much more heavily than in any of the previous battles of this series and this suggests a return to their earlier defensive tactics, depending upon man power rather than upon concrete.

The rifle-fire was not so heavy as usual, doubtless because the weapons were largely clogged with mud. The bayonet and the bomb were the principal weapons used in the close fighting.

The walking wounded who are returning are bleached and caked to the eyebrows with wet and mud, nevertheless, they are wonderfully cheerful.

Early reports, though necessarily scrappy and brief are most satisfactory and the advance, though slow, owing to the badness of the ground and the poor-ness of the light, seems to have been general. Here and there, points of strong resistance were encountered, and Daisy wood was found to be full of German machine-gunners.

These were dealt with by tactics believed to have been quite successful.

There was stiff fighting near Reutel but it has apparently gone in our favour, and there was a hot struggle in and about Poelderhoek Chateau which was strongly defended by machine-guns.

The news is not definite but it is believed the situation here has been cleared up. Another centre of strong resistance was the brewery, on the eastern outskirts of Poelcapelle. Prisoners are coming in freely and hundreds have already been counted.

The flying men are doing splendidly, chasing the enemy aeroplanes whenever seen. At seven in the morning, one of our formations, over the German lines, hotly engaged six hun machines at a height of 10,000 feet.

At the moment of closing this despatch it is heard that the Germans are counter-attacking heavily, astride the Ypres-Roulers railway, but our people seem quite content the situation here.

The German retaliatory barrage was not very strong, as a whole, although certain groups of guns were shooting fiercely at local spots.

It is already pretty clear that this will be another fine day for our arms and those of our Allies who, it is understood, are progressing magnificently, sending back hundreds of prisoners.

AN AMAZING NARRATIVE OF ENDURANCE.

Reuters' Correspondent at Headquarters, telegraphing this afternoon says to-day's splendid victory is an amazing narrative of endurance and dogged achievement.

The men had to fight their way, floundering and struggling, across a stretch of over 1,200 yards of ground which was a waste of shellholes, often so close together, that there was no foothold between them, being brimful of water and bounded by knee-deep ooze and the whole was incessantly swept by high explosive shells, shrapnel and machine gun fire. Yet the men gained practically the whole of the day's objectives, with exceptions so trifling, that the clearing up is only a matter of time.

The Germans were surprised, deeming that an attack, in such weather and on such a terrain, was impossible. Moreover, the two Divisions which had to bear the brunt of the attack, had only taken over the line at three o'clock in the morning and were unfamiliar with their surroundings and dog tired after a long march.

The prisoners include men of the 195th Division which had just arrived from the Russian front. This is the third Division from the East which has been knocked out, in five days.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, Adler farm and Poelcapelle brewery were taken. Both had given trouble, wire and water causing delay. The spot was called the water fields.

The latest news is that our troops are overcoming the difficulties and have dug themselves in all round Poelderhoek Chateau. The only question is, how long will the Bosche machine gunners hold out?

Our casualties are reported to be light, and our prisoners doubtless run into four figures. The prisoners admit that these repeated hammer-blows are demoralising and disorganising the German army.

The brunt of the fighting was borne by the home battalions.

It has been a truly great day and the plains of Belgium lie more at our feet than at any time since the dark days of 1914.

THE FRENCH ATTACK.

SPLENDID RESULTS.

LONDON, October 10th.

Reuters' Special Correspondent with the French in Flanders states:—The French, under General Anthoine, attacked at five in the morning in the direction of Mangelaire and the forest at Houthulst, crossing the marshy Steinbeck and determinedly ploughing their way through the rain sodden morass, driving out the Germans as they advanced and reaching the first line of their objectives in a little over two hours. By eight o'clock they had taken Gambleta farm to the south of Mangelaire and, on the extreme left, the village of Draeidank.

Three hundred prisoners, two guns and four machine-guns were captured in the first hour's attack. By eleven o'clock, Mangelaire was captured and passed.

The French are now within 1,000 yards of Houthulst forest, both on the right, where they are advancing in touch with the British and on the left, where they are advancing along the Corverbeck.

The position of the Germans in the forest must already be most uncomfortable. The forest lies low and after the three day's downpour the dugouts must be flooded.

The British, from the positions they have already held since last night, overlook the rear of the forest and the roads from the east and the French are closing in on the west, while an enormous number of guns are in position to bear thereon.

This vast tangle of trees, wire and dugouts, extending two and three quarter miles north to south and three and a half miles east to west is the principal German artillery centre on this Front and already the hedges are alarmed enough to withdraw a proportion of their artillery, especially their heavy guns.

However there are still enough batteries in the forest to make a very serious obstacle and the enemy will doubtless offer a formidable resistance before abandoning a position of such importance and on which they have spent such labour.

To-day's splendid results were obtained in the face of most disheartening conditions. The preparations for the attack were made in three days of atrocious weather in country swimming with water and the discomfort of the men, who had to spend the night before the attack crouching in flooded shell holes, soaked to the skin and in a bitter wind must have been indescribable. It is hard to imagine a landscape more desolate.

Fortunately, the German artillery reaction was less than could be expected and was obviously ill guided.

In the morning the French aeroplanes did good work but in the afternoon a persistent rain made observation impossible.

General Anthoine exploited the peculiarities of the ground to the utmost.

It is notable that the new German system of echelonnement in depth, again failed.

FRENCH ADVANCE TWO KILOMETRES.

PARIS, October 10th.

A communiqué states:—Our attack, which was launched this morning, developed brilliantly.

The troops, after crossing a marshy brook at Proenbeck, carried, with admirable dash, on a front of 2,500 metres, the enemy's defences, despite the difficulties of the ground and bad weather.

We captured the villages of Saint Jean, Mangelaire and Veldhoek and numerous farms, organised as block-houses. The advance, which is of an average depth of two kilometres, has brought us to the southern fringe of Houthulst wood.

The air service, despite the gale, co-operated actively in the attack, machine-gunning from a low altitude, the enemy infantry and maintaining touch with the other arms.

The number of prisoners so far counted is 300, of which twelve are officers. There was artillery activity on the Aisne Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

GERMAN POSITIONS ATTACKED.

PARIS, October 8th.

A communiqué states:—In Belgium, in conjunction with the British, we attacked at 8.30 this morning the German positions south of the forest of Houthulst, between Draillank and Weindendrecht.

Fighting continues and is developing in our favour. Operations on the Aisne front are marked by artillery activity, notably in the region of Pantheon on the right bank of the Meuse. There is an artillery struggle in the sector north of Bois le Chaume.

Naval Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

RUSSIAN CAPTURES IN THE BOSPHORUS.

LONDON, October 9th.

A Russian official wireless message states:—In the Bosphorus region our torpedo-boats destroyed seven coal-laden barges, while a Russian submarine captured and brought in to Sevastopol a Turkish steamer laden with corn.

Italian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

ITALIAN FRONT.

AUSTRIANS RENEW ATTACKS.

LONDON, October 9th.

An Italian official message says:—After an intense bombardment, the enemy renewed his attacks on Costa Bella and Massif, but our artillery compelled him to withdraw. We took a hundred prisoners in local engagements on the Bainsizza Plateau.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

A COURT MARTIAL IN ROME. HEAVY SENTENCES.

ROME, October 10th.

The Court Martial has concluded of six men charged with causing incendiary fires at Genoa, an explosion in a munitions factory in 1916 and with having relations with the enemy.

Three were sentenced to be shot, two to penal servitude for life and one to 20 years' solitary confinement.

AMERICA'S FIGHTING NUCLEUS.

HARRISBURG, October 9th.

Mr. Baker, Secretary of State for War, in a speech, said that before long America's fighting nucleus would aggregate more than 1,300,000 men, and the nation had diverted its industries to war purposes so effectively, that when its army takes its place abroad, it would be armed as well as any, and better than most.

CHANGE IN COMMAND AT ALDERSHOT.

LONDON, October 9th.

General Sir Archibald Murray is succeeding General Sir Archibald Hunter in the Aldershot Command.

General Hunter is taking up an important appointment at the War Office. He has issued a farewell Order in which he states that the late Lord Kitchener ordered him, on August 22nd, 1914, to proceed to Aldershot and to train the new armies without wasting an hour, and he started the training centre on August 23rd.

He pays a tribute to the officers and men who worked under him and eulogises the steady discipline and good behaviour of hundreds of thousands of soldiers of the new armies trained at Aldershot. He states the one regret he must carry to the grave is that he was not privileged to fight with the men he helped to train.

MADAME TURMEL ARRESTED.

PARIS, October 10th.

Madam Turmel has been arrested.

FARMERS COMPLAIN OF MEAT PRICES.

LONDON, October 10th.

The Press Bureau announces that Lord Rhonda, replying to an agricultural deputation, dealt with the complaint that the fixed prices of meat were unremunerative to the farmer.

He referred to the danger of a world famine in meat in 1918. He said that if the Director of Food Economy, Sir A. Yapp's appeal for voluntary economy failed, he would, unhesitatingly, compulsorily ration the country. He agreed to postpone the fixing of the lowest maximum price for cattle, but he refused further concessions and added that the nation was entitled to ask for sacrifices among all classes, including the farmers.

PAY IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.

LONDON, October 10th.

A Joint Committee of the Trade Unions, and of the Members of Parliament, has urged Mr. Lloyd George immediately to increase the pay of soldiers and sailors, by 100 per cent., with increases in other ranks below officers.

Mr. Lloyd George pointed out that what had already been done had cost between £50,000,000 and £60,000,000.

The Premier said that he sympathized with the objects of the Deputation and would refer the matter back to Sir Edward Carson's Cabinet Committee.

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN MADRID.

MADRID, October 8th.

The Portuguese President arrives to-day and King Alfonso will meet him at the station.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE GERMAN INTRIGUES.

FRENCH COMMISSION TO VISIT ENGLAND.

PARIS, October 9th.

A French Commission of Enquiry is going to England in connection with the Bolo case.

The visit of the French Commission to enquire into the activities of M. Bolo's friends in England is expected to result in some startling developments.

Bolo is a Frenchman, who has been a ladies' hairdresser, a stock-broker's agent, a bogus company promoter and a supposed millionaire with an entrée to Paris society.

He had illicit dealings with the ex-Khedive, who made him a Fasha. The discovery of his activities on behalf of Germany has caused an enormous sensation in France.

He is supposed to have received 1,600,000 Marks from Germany to effect a separate peace with France.

Bolo tried to secure control of the French Press.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN GERMANY AND TURKEY.

EXCHANGE URGED.

LONDON, October 9th.

The Daily News, in a leader, refers to the callousness which is the inevitable result of war and says that the fatalistic acceptance of misery and suffering and death is a thing that must be resisted at all costs. Especially must it be remembered that the case of the prisoner of war is not less pitiful to-day. It is possible to believe that the best is being done, privately and officially, for prisoners in Germany, but what of the others?

The leader proceeds to dwell upon the wretched lot of prisoners in the hands of the Turks and urges the British Government to take steps to effect their exchange without delay.

COTTON IN EGYPT.

CAIRO, October 8th.

The cotton condition in Lower Egypt is 94 and in Upper Egypt 96. The final result is not expected to be so favourable as anticipated, but the quality of fibre and the ginning out-turn are expected to be particularly good.

POLITICS IN GERMANY.

SPEECH BY THE IMPERIAL CHANCELLOR.

AMSTERDAM, October 9th.

Dr. Michaelis, who was accompanied by the principal members of the Government, soothly addressed the Reichstag. He dwelt upon the criticisms regarding the conduct of the Fatherland Party propaganda by officials and stated that there was no objection to officials belonging to political parties, but abuses favouring a particular party were not allowed, and all political propaganda in the Army was excluded. He deplored the fact that antagonistic forms of propaganda had recently sprung up there, and appealed for singleness of the community's aims.

Subsequent speakers reflected keen irritation at Herr von Helfferich's attitude, as cabled on the 7th instant, and condemned politics in the Army, but they supported patriotic propaganda, which inexperienced eighteen-year old lieutenants could not accomplish.

The War Minister, Herr von Stein, declared that the propaganda service was covered from general funds. Herr von Helfferich defended his behaviour on Saturday.

Dr. Michaelis again spoke and promised action in cases exposed where higher officials on behalf of the Fatherland Party had unduly influenced the lower. He dwelt on the necessity of propaganda at the front, though it was sometimes difficult to distinguish propaganda from politics, as exemplified in the criticism of the Reply to the Papal Note. He denied that propaganda was being worked to support the Fatherland Party.

The Supplementary Estimate for the office of Vice-Chancellor was adopted unaltered, the Social Democrats dissenting.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE FLOOD IN NORTH CHINA.

THE CAPITAL ENDANGERED.

SHANGHAI, October 9th.

There are enormous floods in North China over a densely populated area.

Twenty thousand square miles have become an immense deep lake, and there is a likelihood of Tientsin becoming isolated and uninhabitable; also the removal of the capital from Peking might be necessary, owing to the instability of the communications.

ANGLO-FRENCH OFFENSIVE.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS INDICATED.

LONDON, October 9th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We again attacked, at 5.30 this morning, on a wide front to the north-east and east of Ypres, in conjunction with our Allies on our left.

Reports indicate satisfactory progress at all parts of the front. The weather is stormy.

GERMAN REPORT.

A German official wireless message says:—The English attacked this morning astride the Staden-Beezinghe Railway and northward of the Ypres-Menin road. Fighting is in progress.

GERMAN ADMISSIONS.

A German wireless official message states:—A fresh battle has developed and still continues between the Draibank and Gheluvelt. The gain of territory, despite repeated assaults, is limited to the stretch between Draibank and Poelcapelle.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

COALITION CABINET FORMED.

PETROGRAD, October 9th.

The new Coalition Cabinet which has been formed comprises six Socialists, of which M. Kernesky is the Premier and Commander-in-Chief. There are eleven Democratic and Bourgeois representatives, including M. Terestchenko, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, General Vorkhovskiy, Minister for War, and Admiral Voderersky, Minister of Marine.

OTHER CABINET APPOINTMENTS.

The new Cabinet includes M. Nikitin, Minister for the Interior and Posts and Telegraphs, M. Avksentie, as Minister for Agriculture, M. Goyadev, as Minister for Labour, and M. Bernatsky, as Minister for Finance.

RAILWAY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT.

The Government has decided to grant the increase of wages demanded by the railway strikers, necessitating an annual expenditure of 750,000,000 roubles.

The Government also provides for special supplies to railwaymen, who will receive food before other supplies are distributed.

OIL-FIELDS STRIKE AT BAKU.

BAKU, October 9th.

A general strike has been declared in the oil fields because the employers have refused not to dismiss workmen except with the consent of the Trade Unions.

THE AUSTRALIAN BUTTER PURCHASES.

MELBOURNE, October 9th.

It is announced that the Imperial Government butter purchase involves thirty thousand tons, of the value of £4,500,000.

THE MUNITIONS WORKS FIRE.

LONDON, October 9th.

The Press Bureau announces that ten were killed and two injured in the munitions works fire cabled on the 2nd inst.

ARGENTINA AND GERMANY.

BUENOS AIRES, October 9th.

Senor Pueyrredon, the Foreign Minister, in an interview regarding Argentina's attitude, stated that the Government would not hesitate to sever relations with Germany if any act were committed interfering with the principles of International Law.

COUNT LUXBERG OSTRACISED.

It appears that Count Luxberg has not sailed, but has temporarily withdrawn to an unnamed place in the interior, as he was unable to embark without safe-conduct, and his presence in Buenos Aires was dangerously exciting the population. Neighbouring Governments have objected to his crossing the frontier.

THE RAILWAY STRIKE.

There is no prospect of a settlement in the railway strike. The strikers are attacking railroad repairers.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

FLEET OF TORPEDO-BOAT DESTROYERS.

WASHINGTON, October 8th.

The Administration is arranging to spend \$250,000,000 in building torpedo-boat destroyers, which will be ready within eighteen months.

POLISH ARMY TO BE RAISED.

WASHINGTON, October 9th.

The Government approves of the raising of a Polish Army in America to fight in France.

SULTAN OF EGYPT REPORTED DYING.

PARIS, October 9th.

It is reported that the Sultan of Egypt is dying.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, October 9th.

Silver is quoted at 45½d. per ounce. The market is dull.

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J. H. WALLACE, General Agent, Hongkong.

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FOR STRAITS TO SAIL

STEAMERS	TO SAIL
SHANGHAI	WINGSANG Saturday, 13th Oct. D'light
MANILA	LOONGSANG Saturday, 13th Oct. 5 a.m.
YIENTSIN via WEIHAWEI	"CHIPSANG" Sunday, 14th Oct. D'light
SHANGHAI	"WOSANG" Wed day, 17th Oct. D'light
MANILA	"YUENSANG" Saturday, 20th Oct. 5 a.m.
SANDAKAN	"MAUSANG" Saturday, 20th Oct. Noon

CALCUTTA LINE—Three sailings per month from Hongkong to Calcutta calling at Singapore and Penang.
Returning from Calcutta steamers proceed to Kobe and Moji, frequently calling at Shanghai.
These steamers have excellent passenger accommodation, are fitted with electric light and carry a fully qualified Surgeon.
This line is temporarily discontinued owing to the war. Particulars on application.
SHANGHAI LINE—Sailings approximately every five days between Canton and Shanghai, sometimes calling at Swatow.
Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommodation, and through tickets can be obtained for Northern and Yangtze Ports via Shanghai. Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Yangtze Ports.
MANILA LINE—A weekly service is maintained with Manila by vessels with good passenger accommodation, sailings from both ports every Saturday.
SHANGHAI LINE—Sailings approximately weekly for passengers and cargo, calling at Hainan when convenient.
BORNEO LINE—One sailing per month between Hongkong and Sandakan by steamer having up-to-date accommodation for passengers.
Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for Kuala, Jesselton, Labuan, Tawau and Lahad Datu.
YIENTSIN LINE—A regular service is run from March to October between Hongkong and Yientsin, calling at Weihaiwei and Chafoo.
UNDER STRAITS GOVERNMENT PASSPORT REGULATIONS, All European Passengers leaving the Colony for Straits Settlements are required to produce on arrival at destination passports with their Photographs and description affixed thereto.
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THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN RUSSIA.

SPECTRE OF FAMINE STALKING THE LAND.
"A MAD DANCE OF PAPER MILLIARDS"

It is well to look facts straight in the face and not give oneself over to illusions (writes the Petrograd correspondent of the Manchester Guardian). One thing is already stalking over the great Russian plain. M. Shingareff, the late Minister of Agriculture and now Minister of Finance, said in a speech at Rostoff that in certain places in the northern provinces peasants are beginning to commit suicide and kill their children to escape from the pangs of hunger. How is it that this great corn-exporting country is in such a condition? It is not difficult to explain.

Before the war, out of the one and a half milliard pounds of cereals produced in Russia, from 400,000,000 to 600,000,000 pounds were exported, and about one milliard pounds left for the internal market. When the war broke out all that was formerly exported came on to the market. But within a very short time the immense increase in the armies drew away some 20 million peasants from works of production to works of destruction. All these now began to eat much more than they did in peace times. Hard work on the front and the abolition of vodka increased their demands for cereal food. Moreover, the peasant of the southern and central provinces before the war lived in a continual state of semi-starvation. His land was small, his taxes high, the machinery he had to buy was very dear, because the bourgeois classes of Moscow and Odessa, sheltered behind the highest tariff in Europe, were interested in keeping prices up. He was thus forced to more normal circumstances, he would have consumed himself, in order to pay off his debts. The war came, and the army at once became the great consumer. Thousands of refugees from Poland and Roumania poured into the country. At last, by the winter of 1916-17, the whole of the one milliard pounds which under normal circumstances are put upon the home market was bought by the State for army and refugee work, leaving only some 500,000,000 pounds for the civil population.

The facts now are these. The amount of cereals left in the country may suffice to feed the army and the civil population, if careful rationing is undertaken, until this year's harvest. How Russia will get through next winter depends entirely upon the sowing that has taken place this spring, and the results of the harvest. In order to avoid famine it will be necessary to keep the production of the land fully up to what it was last year. On the other hand, every day brings reports of the lack of labour in the villages, of the complete absence of manure, and of the immense difficulty of getting agricultural implements and machinery. Besides which, in many districts of the south and centre agrarian disorders have broken out owing to the stubbornness of the landlords in holding back their lands from the peasants. What will happen next winter nobody here cares to think about, and it is better not to do so. But the more immediate question is whether famine can be staved off now for the next few months; that is to say, can the food stocks left in the country be distributed in such a way as to feed all, even with reduced rations.

To answer this question we must look into the whole industrial condition of Russia at the present time. There are 150,000,000 peasants of all nationalities scattered over this vast plain. They have stocks of corn which are said to be about 400,000,000 pounds. They are told that the towns are crying for bread, and they are ready to sell if they can get some equivalent value for their produce. They sell, but say a portion and receive a mass of paper money printed by the State Bank. They take this to the market towns, hoping to buy sugar, tea, clothing, boots, and find that this money is absolutely useless, because the produce is not there for sale. It has been estimated that 65 milliard roubles' worth of paper money is lying in the pockets of the peasants unable to find anything to purchase. It is thus clear that the industrial machine which supplies the agricultural population with the necessities of life has broken down, and with it the financial network of the country. It appears that there are two causes for this breakdown. First, the greater part of the industries of the country are producing now, not for the needs of the civil population, but for the army and all its branches of the war service. Large numbers of workers have been taken away from their former industrial occupations and turned on to army work, thus starving the productive industries of their labour. These causes are connected, therefore, directly with the war, and will continue to operate to affect the situation until there is peace. The plain fact is that the industries of Russia cannot now supply a modern army with all that it needs, and satisfy the wants of the peasant population at the same time. Figures recently worked out at Moscow show that while the monthly demand for iron in the country is 27 million pounds, the monthly production is only 15 million pounds. Therefore there is no settling this side of the problem as long as the war lasts.

But there is another cause which can and is being dealt with at this moment. Indeed, it is causing another Cabinet crisis. The crisis last month was on the question of foreign policy, and ended in the fall of M. Milukoff and the establishment of the revolutionary democracy in the Government. Now the next stage of the revolution is being reached. The industrial crisis caused by the conflict between capital and labour is forcing the reins of government still further out of the hands of the bourgeoisie and giving them more and more to the proletariat. The second cause, therefore, of the industrial crisis concerns the economic struggle between two classes of Russian society. This has become especially acute since the war. It is due to certain peculiar conditions in Russian economy.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

GERMAN CASUALTIES.

TOTAL OF 4,624,256.

The following is a return of German casualties as reported in the German official casualty lists to the end of July. The casualties (exclusive of corrections) reported during the month of July, 1917, were as follows:—

Killed and died of wounds	18,416
Died of sickness	2,970
Prisoners	3,254
Missing	13,366
Severely wounded	19,890
Wounded	3,560
Slightly wounded	38,398
Wounded remaining with units	11,086
Total	100,949

The above casualties added to those reported in previous months and including the corrections reported in July, 1917, bring the totals reported in the German official lists since the beginning of the war to:—

Killed and died of wounds	1,056,973
Died of sickness	75,988
Prisoners	335,280
Missing	267,237
Severely wounded	602,858
Wounded	317,997
Slightly wounded	1,581,897
Wounded remaining with units	276,093
Total	4,624,256

The above figures include all German nationalities—Prussians, Bavarians, Saxons, and Wurtembergers. They do not include naval casualties or casualties of colonial troops.

It should be noted that the above figures do not constitute an estimate by the British authorities, but merely represent the casualties announced in German official lists. It should also be noted that the casualties are those reported during the month of July—not reported as having been incurred in July.

The industrial life of Russia is even in normal times very undeveloped, and the vast majority of the population are peasants engaged in agriculture of a primitive kind. The amount of capital, therefore, seeking employment on the home markets is very limited. But what capital there is has become so demoralised by contact with the Tsar's Government in the past, by sheltering behind high tariffs and monopolies, that it has not been put to the proper use when the hour of trial came. The profits of the industrialists, instead of going into the War Loans, were used for speculation and inflation of industrial capital. The result was that the burden of war finance fell upon the State Bank and the Imperial Budget. The total cost of the war for Russia up to March 13th, 1917, amounted to 28,035,000,000 roubles. Of this sum 10,997,000,000 roubles fell upon the State Bank, which met this burden by taking up 7,882,000,000 roubles' worth of Treasury bonds and about three milliard roubles' worth of loans without interest. This huge expenditure on war account for the State was covered to the extent of only 20 per cent. by paper and metal reserves in the Bank and by various banking operations, thus leaving 80 per cent.—i.e., 8,317,000,000 roubles—which was dealt with by putting paper money to that amount on the home markets. Up to March 13th, 1917, therefore, 39 per cent. of Russia's war expenditure was taken over by the State Bank. Between March 13th and May 29th this percentage has increased to 52 per cent. for the war expenditure for this period was 4,180,000 roubles, of which 2,350,000,000 roubles fell on the State. Quite the months go by, and the restricted money markets of the country are quite inadequate to meet this appalling expenditure. The Government printing press works night and day and the flood of paper money rises higher and higher. Materials and produce grow less and less as the war consumes them, while money grows more and more, hunting after the phantom values which it cannot find. The capitalist class, in order to save itself from the flood, uses its war profits to buy up and hold what stocks of material remain in the State Loans it speculates with them on the produce markets and this only further excites the mad dance of the paper milliards over the land. To make matters worse, there has been no attempt since the beginning of the war to introduce a proper system of direct taxation into the State Budget.

As soon as the revolution broke out the first use the proletariat made of its new-won liberty was to demand increase of wages. All rises that have been obtained, however, hitherto have been met by the employers with a corresponding increase in the cost of the products, and the workers as consumers are no better off than they were before. They have now, therefore, increased their demands so as to include practically the whole of the war profits, and, moreover, demand that it shall be retrospective. The proletariat, in fact, are stepping into the position of the State and demanding for themselves what the State should have taken by direct taxation. Of course the greater part of the old war profits are past recovery.

It is obvious that the most stern measures are needed to prevent a catastrophe. Many of the industrialists will lose their fortunes and their businesses in any case, but the principal thing at the moment is to prevent a complete famine in industrial products. The task that lies before the revolutionary democracy is to establish a minimum wage in all industries, to fix the prices of all the principal products of industry, to secure for the State the greater part of all future war profits and a reinvestment of capital in the businesses for repairs and improvements. All this will entail a State control over the principal industries, and at the present moment everything points in this direction. It is the indispensable step in the regeneration of Russian industries, which have come to the brink of disaster as the result of the war and the late Tsar's government. When this is done it will be possible to guarantee to the peasants some of the necessities of life for which they can exchange the produce of their fields, and this will remove some of the graver danger of famine.



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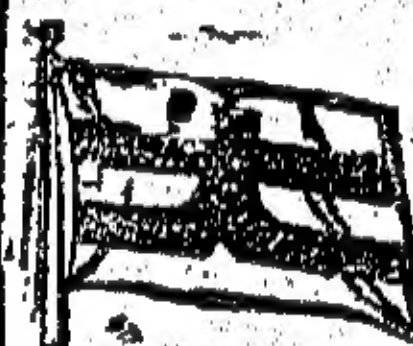
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